**Reading Assignment 1 -Read Pages Preface, Forward and pages 3 to 22- Defining Identity- Due Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. How important is religion to the way Eliezer defines his identity?
2. What does the word “religion” mean to you?
3. What do the Jews of Sighet know about the outside world in 1941? How do they respond to what they know?
4. How do the Jews of Sighet react to the arrival of the Germans? The creation of the ghettos? Their own deportation? How do you account for these responses?

**Reading Assignment 2- Read Pages 23-46-Initiation to Auschwitz- Due Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**To Read**

**You are likely to encounter these terms and names as you read.**

**Auschwitz-Birkenau**—established in 1940 as a concentration camp, a killing center was added in 1942 at Birkenau. Also part of the huge camp complex was a slave labor camp known as Buna-Monowitz.

**Concentration camp**—a prison camp in which individuals are held without regard for accepted rules of arrest and detention. The Nazis constructed concentration camps to hold Jews, “Gypsies,” communists, and others considered “enemies of the state.”

**Death camp**—a camp where the Nazis murdered people in assembly-line style. The largest death camp was Auschwitz-Birkenau. The term was also used for concentration camps such as Bergen-Belsen and Dachau where thousands died of starvation, disease, and maltreatment.

**Kapo**—a prisoner forced to oversee other prisoners.

**Mengele, Josef (1911–1979)**—senior SS physician at Auschwitz-Birkenau from 1943–1944. He carried out “selections” of prisoners upon their arrival at the camp and conducted experiments on some of those prisoners.

**“Selection”**—the process the Nazis used to separate those prisoners who would be assigned to forced labor from those who were to be killed immediately.

**SS**—in German, Schutzstaffel; the elite guard of Nazi Germany. It provided staff for the police, camp guards, and military units within the German army.

1. Why do you think the Germans take away the inmates’ personal belongings? Their clothing? Why do they cut off their hair? Tattoo a number on each person’s arm?
2. How does Eliezer respond when his father is beaten for the first time? How does that response affect the way he sees himself? What does he fear is happening to him?
3. Wiesel, in recounting the first night in the concentration camp says, “Never shall I forget that night, the first night in the camp, which has turned my life into one long night.…” What does it mean for a life to be turned into “one long night”?

**Reading Assignment 3- Read Pages 47-65 Identity and Indifference- Due Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. Give examples of the ways Eliezer’s relationship with his father is changing. What is prompting those changes?
2. What does Eliezer mean when he refers to his father as “his weak point”? Why has he come to view love as a weakness?
3. When the young boy is hanged, a prisoner asks, “Where is God now?” Eliezer thinks to himself, “He is hanging here on this gallows.…” What does this statement mean? Is it a statement of despair? Anger? Or hope?

**Discuss the meaning of the word *resistance* at Auschwitz.**